

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01
ACDA-12 /087 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN:LM

APPROVED BY S/AA:ALATHERTON, JR.

NEA:NAVELIOTES

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O 072358Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 144836

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, PGOV, SOPN, IS, US

SUBJECT: ISRAELI EMBASSY COMPLAINT ABOUT DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN'S REPORTED REMARKS

1. ISRAELI DCM BAR-ON CALLED AMBASSADOR ATHERTON
LATE THIS AFTERNOON TO COMPLAIN ABOUT SEVERAL STATE-
MENTS PARTIAL TO EGYPT ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN MADE AT
NOON BRIEFING BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN. HE REFERRED
TO AP STORY BY BARRY SCHWEID. STORY CLAIMED THAT
SPOKESMAN HAD FIRST "CONDEMNED" ISRAELI OIL EXPLORATION
AND EXPLOITATION IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, AND THEN
REAFFIRMED CONFIDENCE IN PRESIDENT SADAT AS A PEACE-
MAKER DESPITE HIS CALL TO EGYPTIAN TROOPS AT ISMAILIA
TO BRACE FOR "BATTLE OF LIBERATION."

2. ATHERTON ASSURED BAR-ON THAT THERE WAS NO SUBSTANCE
IN THE WAY SCHWEID HAD PORTRAYED THE REMARKES OF THE
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SPOKESMAN. HE POINTED OUT THAT SPOKESMAN'S REMARKS
WERE IN LOW KEY AND IN ANSWER TO SEPARATE QUESTIONS
AND SHOULD NOT BE LINKED. ATHERTON READ BOTH ANSWERS
TO BAR-ON, WHO AGREED THAT SCHWEID HAD SENSATIONIZED
THEM, ALTHOUGH HE REMAINED UNHAPPY ABOUT SPOKESMAN'S
REPLIES. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD SEEK TO CALM MATTERS

IN EMBASSY RESPONSE TO PRESS QUERIES BUT AP STORY
WOULD CAUSE PROBLEMS IN JERUSALEM.

3. FULL TEXT OF SPOKESMAN'S REMARKS ARE CARRIED IN
DAILY PRESS TELEGRAM. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE144836
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GFSHERMAN:LM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780238-0840
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780684/aaaaculb.tel
Line Count: 67
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 53cdcc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2447402
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI EMBASSY COMPLAINT ABOUT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S REPORTED REMARKS
TAGS: EMIN, PGOV, SOPN, IS, US, EG, (SCHWEID, BARRY)
To: TEL AVIV
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/53cdcc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014